

The Hong Kong Daily Press

No. 9173

日六月四日年三十緒光

HONGKONG, SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1887.

六月四日年三十緒光

PRICE 50 PER MONTH

INTIMATIONS.

ARRIVALS.
May 27. MERRIDOW, British steamer, 917, Donald Young, Saigon 2nd May, Rice.—ADAMSON, BELL & CO.

May 27. GLENROSE, British steamer, 2,244, K. J. Goss, Antwerp via London 19th April, and Singapore 22nd May, General.—JARDINE, MATTHEWS & CO.

May 27. ANGERS, British steamer, 3,187, Pinkham, Saigon 22nd May, Rice and Paddy.—ADAMSON, BELL & CO.

May 27. NAHIA, British steamer, 862, T. G. POCOCK, Foochow 24th May, Amoy 25th, and Swatow 26th General.—DUGLAS LAFRAK & CO.

May 27. RAMBLER, British gun vessel, from a cruise.

May 27. FUSHUN, Chinese steamer 1,533, Groat, Whampoa 27th May, General.—C. M. S. N. CO.

May 27. MARIE, German steamer, 731, Schaefer, Haiphong 25th May, General.—A. R. MARTY.

May 27. ALWINE, German steamer, 400, J. Samson, Haiphong 25th May, General.—WIELER & CO.

May 27. STRATHAIRY, British steamer, 1,233 D. Boughen, Nagasaki 23rd May, Coal.—MITSU BISSET KAISHA.

CLEARANCES.
AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE.
27TH MAY.

McBath, British str. for Hoihow.
Diamante, British str. for Amoy.

Ningpo, British str. for Shanghai.
Tatian, Austro-Hungarian str. for Singapore.

Lombardy, British str. for Singapore.

Mercury, Amer. bark, for Yokohama.

Penshaw, British bark for Victoria (B.C.).

Haikou, British str. for Swatow.

P. C. C. Kao, British str. for Bangkok.

Nemuchang, British str. for Swatow.

Vianya, Spanish str. for Amoy.

Falkenberg, German str. for Bangkok.

DEPARTURES.

PROFOUND, British str. for Saigon.

STRATHLEVEN, British str. for Nagasaki.

NEWCHWANG, British str. for Swatow.

LOMBARDY, British str. for Amoy.

27TH MAY.

TITANIA, Austro-Hungarian str. for Trieste.

HAITONG, British str. for Tamsui.

27TH MAY.

PHRA CHAI CHOM KLAO, British str. for Bangkok.

PASSENGERS.
ARRIVED.

Per Augers, str. from Saigon.—15 Chinese.

Per Nansen, str. from Coast Ports.—1 European and 12 Chinese.

Per G. F. C. from Antwerp, &c.—Mr. Johnston, and 318 Chinese from Singapore.

Per Marti, str. from Haiphong.—31 Chinese.

Per Almeida, str. from Haiphong.—21 Chinese.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Norma*, from Foochow 24th May, Amoy 25th, and Swatow 26th, reports from Foochow to Amoy and fresh N.E. breeze and fine weather, from chance to port light variable winds and fine weather with sea smooth. In Foochow str. Kaison and Glen-garry.

In Amoy str. Dabing, Glauching, and Bon.

In Swatow str. Feihing, Chongchung, &c.

Meefoo, Picciola, and Haiphong.

SHANGHAI SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

12. Kiang-tee, Chinese str. from Ningpo.

12. Pekin, British steamer, from Hankow.

12. Taku, British str. from Tientsin.

12. Haicchin, Chinese str. from Foochow.

13. Iohang, British str. from Amoy.

13. Iohang, British str. from Ningpo.

13. Kwang-tee, Chinese str. from Hongkong.

13. Fungchung, British str. from Tientsin.

13. Fungchung, British str. from Swatow.

13. Iohang, British str. from Ningpo.

13. Iohang, British str. from Kowloon.

13. Iohang, British str. from Tientsin.

13. Iohang, British str. from Ningpo.

13. Iohang, British str. from Foochow.

13. Iohang, British str. from Tientsin.

13. Iohang, British str. from Ningpo.

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13. Iohang, British str. from Tientsin.

13. Iohang, British str. from Ningpo.

13. Iohang, British str. from Foochow.

13. Iohang, British str. for Swatow.

13. Iohang, Chinese str. for Newchung.

13. Sin Nanjing, British str. for Foochow.

13. Iohang, British str. for Ningpo.

13. Vostnik, Russian corvette, for Hankow.

13. Vostnik, British str. for Hankow.

13. Hangchow, British str. for Swatow.

13. Yangching, Chinese str. for Newchung.

13. Sin Nanjing, British str. for Foochow.

13. Iohang, British str. for Ningpo.

13. Vostnik, Russian corvette, for Hankow.

PAID-UP POLICIES.

Premiums may be limited to 10, 15 or 20 years from the commencement, and after this Policy has been in force for three years, each year's payment of premium sources a proportionate part of the sum assured as a Paid-up Policy in the event of the Life Assured wishing to cease payments. This Policy applies also to Endowment Assurances.

PROPOSAL FORMS OF APPLICATION TO THE BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED.

AGENTS.
STANDARD LIFE OFFICE,
905-61 HONGKONG.

FRESH CIGARETTES

FOR SALE

KAISAR-I-HIND

STAR OF INDIA

KAVALA

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.
Hongkong 20th May, 1887.

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

NEW AND POPULAR BOOKS.
Yacht Architecture, by Dixon Kemp.

International Law, by W. E. Hall.
McArthur's "Contract of Marine Insurance."

The Family Physician; a Manual of Domestic Medicine.

The Book of Health; edited by Malcolm Morris.

Hayden's Dictionary of Dates; New Edition.

A Manual of Yacht and Boat Sailing, by Dixon Kemp.

Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy."

Holmes' Text Book of the Steam Engine.

The Mechanics of Machinery, by Kennedy.

Living-People and France; a Guide Book by A. L. B.

Short Lectures to Electrical Artisans, by Fleming.

Instruction in Photography, by Capt. Abney.

The Lovely Wang, by Mrs. F. W. Wainfield.

Hand Book to the Diet Office, and Platform.

Electricity and Theory, Science and Application by Sprague.

Skottowe's "A Short History of Parliament."

The Practical Horse-Keeper, by Fleming.

Thurber's "Shipbuilding in Iron and Steel."

New Edition with Plates, 2 Vols.

KELLY & WALSH, LTD., HONGKONG.

W. B. REWEWER HAS JUST RECEIVED

Beed's Engineer's Handbook.

Beed's Extra Chief's Examination.

Reed's Engineer's Private Log.

Spon's Mechanic's Own Book.

Universal Instructor or Self-Culture for all.

The Student's English Dictionary.

Deacon's Handbook of Law.

Parliamentary Procedure.

French's Chinese str. from Tientsin.

13. Iohang, British str. from Ningpo.

13. Iohang, British str. from Foochow.

13. Iohang, British str. for Tientsin.

13. Iohang, British str. for Ningpo.

13. Iohang, British str. from Foochow.

13. Iohang, British str. for Ningpo.

1887. NOW READY. 1887

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

FOR 1887.

[With which is incorporated
THE CHINESE DIRECTORY.
(Twenty-fourth Annual Issue),
COMPLETE WITH APPENDIX, PLANS, &c., &c.,
Price 8vo. pp. 1,156. £5.00.
SMALLER EDITION, 8vo. pp. 778. £3.00.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
has been thoroughly revised and brought up
to date, and is again much increased in bulk.
It contains DESCRIPTIVE and STATISTICAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS, and DIRECTORYS for
ADMIRALTY, CHINA, JAPAN,
Do. LADIES' DIRECTORY Nagasaki,
Do. Post DIRECTORY Kobe (Hiroko),
Do. Military Forces Osaka,
Do. Chinese Ports Tokyo,
MACAU. Yokohama,
CHINA. Ningpo,
Pakhoi. Hainan,
Hainan. Hainan,
Whampoa. Canton,
Canton. Canton,
Swallow. Swallow,
Borneo. Borneo,
Takao. Sarawak,
Takao. Labuan,
Kohing. British North Borneo,
Kohing. China,
Winchow. Siam,
Ningpo. Cholon,
Shanghai. Cambodia,
Chinkiang. ANNAN—
Wulu. Hainan,
Kiujiang. Haiphong,
Hankow. Hainan,
Iohang. Hainan,
Chanching. Hainan,
Takao. Haiphong, &c.,
Tientsin. Bangkok,
Peking. Singapore,
Port Arthur. Malacca,
Nawabang. Malacca,
CORSA. Siam,
Soul. Johor,
Jenman. Malacca,
Penang. Malacca,
Yenang. Sungai Ujong,
PORT HAMILTON. Selangor,
VLADIVOSTOK. Perak,
NAVAL SQUADRONS—
British. French,
United States. German,
China. Chinese Northern,
British. The Steamers of the Chinese Steamers of
P. & O. S. N. Co. China & Manilla S. S. Co.
Macao. Macao & S. S. Co.
Japan. C. & M. S. B. Co.
Indo-China. S. N. Co. Scottish Orientals S. Co.
Dongas S. S. Co. Miscellaneous Coast
China Mer. S. N. Co. Steamers

The LIST OF RESIDENTS now contains
the name of
THIRTEEN THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED
FORTNIGHTS
arranged under one Alphabet in the strictest
order, the initials as well as the surnames
being alphabetical.

THE MAPS AND PLANS have been mostly
in a simplified style, and brought up
to date. They now consist of
FLAGS OF MERCANTILE HOUSES IN CHINA,
CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT VICTORIA PEAK,
MAP OF THE FAR EAST,
MAP OF THE ISLAND OF HONGKONG,
PLAN OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA,
PLAN OF PORT CONCESSIONS, SHANGHAI,
PLAN OF HONGKONG,
PLAN OF SAIGON,
PLAN OF TOWN AND ENVIRONS OF SINGAPORE,
PLAN OF GEORGE TOWN, PENANG.

Among the other contents of the book are—
An Anglo-Chinese Calendar, Mean of Barometer
and Thermometer, Rainfall, &c.
A full chapter on remarkable events since
the foundation of China and Japan.
A description of Chinese Festivals, East, &c.,
with the days on which they fall.
Comparative Tables of Money, Weights, &c.
New Scale of Hongkong Stamp Duties.
The Hongkong Post Guide for 1887.
Arrivals and Departures of Mails and Parcel
Post at and from London and Hongkong.
Scale of Commission and Charges adopted by
the Chambers of Commerce of Hongkong,
Shanghai, Amoy and Nanchang,
Hongkong Chair, Jintuok, and Boat Hires.

The APPENDIX consists of
FOUR HUNDRED PAGES
of closely printed text, to which references is
constantly referred by residents and those
having commercial or political relations with the
Countries embraced within the scope of the
CHRONICLE and DIRECTORY.

The Contents of the Appendix are to
be recapitulated in an Advertisement, but
includes—

TREATIES WITH CHINA—
Great Britain, Nanking 1842
France, 1858
China with Additional Article
and all others not abrogated.

France, Tientsin 1858
Convention 1860
Tientsin 1855
Treaty of Commerce 1883.

United States, Tientsin 1863
Additional 1869—

Convention 1860
Tientsin 1861
Peking 1880

Russia, Japan, Spain, Brazil, and Peru.

TREATIES WITH JAPAN—
Great Britain Netherland
United States Corea

TREATIES WITH COREA

TREATIES WITH ANNAM

TREATIES WITH CAMBODIA

Customs Tariffs

Chinese Japanese

Legal Orders in Council for Government of H.B.M.

Subjects in China and Japan, 1865, 1877,

1878, 1881, 1884, 1886.

Rules of H.B.M. Supreme and other Courts

China Japan

Tables of Consular Fees

Code of Civil Procedure, Hongkong

Table of Hongkong Court Fees

Admiralty Rules

Foreign Jurisdiction Act

Regulations for the Consular Courts of United

States in China

Rules of Court of Consuls at Shanghai

China Passages Act

Taxes REGULATIONS

China Siam

Customs Seizure, China

Customs and Harbour Regulations for the different ports of China, Philippines, Siam, &c.

PILOTAGE Regulations

HONGKONG Charter of the Colony

New Ruled Legislative Council

Port Regulations

Co., &c., &c.

Orders may be sent to *Daily Press* Office, where

it is published, or to the following Agents—

MACAO. Mr. F. A. da Cruz

SWATOW. Messrs. Quelch & Co.

AMOY. Messrs. Gerald & Co.

FORMOSA. Mr. J. C. J. C. & Co.

PEKING. Messrs. Hepp & Co.

NIHON. Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, S'pore.

SHANGHAI. Hill & Holtz Co-operative Co.

CHINAH. Messrs. Kelly & Walsh

NOETHERN & HILL & HOLTZ Co-operative Co.

RIVER PORTS & Kelly & Walsh, Shanghai.

NAGASAKI. Messrs. The C. J. T. Trading Co.

HOKKAIDO. Messrs. F. W. & Co.

PEKING. Messrs. S. & G. & Co.

MANILA. Messrs. Diaz Pascual & Co.

DAMON. Messrs. Schroeder & F. & Co.

GARDEN. Mr. G. G. G. & Co.

HANOI. Mr. G. G. G. & Co.

HAIKONG. Messrs. Ramsey & Co.

SINGAPORE. Messrs. Sayle & Co.

PEKING. Messrs. S. & G. & Co.

COLOGNE. Mr. A. M. & J. J. J. & Co.

LOUANG. Messrs. Norman & Co.

SYDNEY. Messrs. Gordon & Gosh.

MELBOURNE. Messrs. Norton, Harrar & Co.

BEDFORD. Messrs. Gordon & Gosh.

LONDON. Mr. F. A. Clegg & Sons

EDINBURGH. Messrs. Street & Co., 30 Cornhill.

LONDON. Messrs. Butts, Hendy & Co.

LONDON. Mr. W. M. Wills, 181 Cannon St.

HAN FRANC. Mr. L. & J. F. & Co.

NEW YORK. Mr. A. Wind, 21 Park Row.

PARIS. Mr. Bache.

PARIS.

After the evidence had been taken of Cha Tong, the interpreter to the Vice-Brigadier, who was present at the fire, Wai-ki, Kau, and Siai Tak Ching had the order to have him purchased. The court adjourned till this morning at ten o'clock.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

The following late telegrams are from the *Rangoon Gazette*:

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BOMBAY.—BOMBAY, 8th May.

The Sowla Motif, one of the largest spinning concerns in Bombay, has been completely destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at six lakhs of rupees. The fire is believed to have been caused by friction. The neighbouring Allianz Mill had a narrow escape. A Paroo Fire Temple sustained considerable damage.

THE CHINAH BIRMA RISING.

LONDON, 9th May.

In the House of Lords last evening, Lord Cross, Secretary of State for India, in reply to a question, said Lord Dufferin had telegraphed stating that his information did not confirm the report relative to the victory gained by the rebels over the British forces in the districts of the Yunnan says, had taken place in the vicinity of the Khyber, although it appeared that an engagement had occurred on the 13th ultimatum between the Amirs' troops and Hotaks, both sides claiming the advantage, and the Viceroy added that he has no reason to believe that the Amir, Abdol Rahman, is not holding his own.

COUNT HERBERT BISMARCK'S HEALTH.

BERLIN, 11th April.

Count Herbert Bismarck has been laid to rest, and proceeds to pay a visit to the Marquis Londesborough, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, at Dublin.

THE HAITIAN INDEMNITY.

LONDON, 12th April.

The Government of Hayti have paid a portion of the indemnity claimed by Britain and have promised the balance shortly.

HYWATER, TANQUERAY & CO. (late Bayator & CO.) are agents for Residents abroad, Missionaries, Chaplains, etc., in every part of the world. Goods and Outfitting Agents at Wholesale prices. Shipping and passages arranged. Banking in all its branches. Full descriptive Catalogue post free. Offices—73, Queen Victoria Street, London. 2,000 References. Advt.

1226

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

FRIDAY, 27th May.

Quotations are—

New Malwa.....\$25 per picul, alse of 3 to 4 piculs.

Old Malwa.....\$50 per picul, alse of 4 piculs.

Older Malwa.....\$60 per picul, alse of 3 to 4 piculs.

Patna (New).....\$424 per obust.

Banars (New).....\$53 to \$600

1227

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer 3,031,004.

Bank Bills, on demand.....\$100.

Bills, at 6 months' sight.....\$10.

Bills, at 12 months' sight.....\$10.

Credits, at 4 months' sight.....\$11.

Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight.....\$12.

ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand.....\$388.

Credits, at 4 months' sight.....\$390.

ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand.....\$75.

Credits, at 30 days' sight.....\$75.

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer.....\$214.

Bank, on demand.....\$32.

ON CALCUTTA.—Bank, at sight.....\$32.

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight.....\$712.

Private, 30 days' sight.....\$724.

1228

SHARES.

Quotations are—

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—\$36 per cent. premium sellers.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited—\$80 per share.

China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$68 per share.

North China Insurance—\$18, 285 per share.

Yangtze River Insurance Association—\$11 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company, Limited—\$230 per share.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—\$14 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Limited—\$75 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$300 per cent. premium sellers.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$70 per share, sellers.

Streets Marine Insurance Company, Limited—\$22 per share.

Streets Fire Insurance Company, Limited—\$16 per share, sellers.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—\$20 per cent. premium sellers.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$300 per cent. discount, sellers.

China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited—\$30 per cent. discount, nominal.

Doigas Steamship Company, Limited—\$82 per share.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$125 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$210 per share, sellers.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$125 per share, sellers.

Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$65 per share, sellers.

Hongkong Ice Company's Shares—\$82 per share.

Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$110 per share.

Food, in Mining and Smelting Company—\$20 per share.

Punjab and Sambhar Mining Company, Limited—\$71 per share, sellers.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Company—\$18 per share.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1888 B—6 per cent. premium.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1888 C—8 per cent. premium.

Chinese Imperial Loan, 1888 E—6 per cent. premium.

Chinese Imperial Government 1888 Dollar Loan—3 per cent. premium.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

24th May, 1887, at 10 A.M.

STATION.	Latitude.	Longitude.	Altitude.	Wind.		Humidity.	Barom.
				Dir.	Force.		
Macau	22° 59' S.	113° 0' E.	1,000	SW	2	60	0.72
Hainan	20° 57' S.	109° 52' E.	1,000	SW	2	60	0.72
Amoy	24° 51' S.	118° 21' E.	1,000	SW	2	60	0.72
Macau	22° 51' S.	113° 0' E.	1,000	SW	2	60	0.72
Shanghai	31° 12' S.	121° 2' E.	1,000	SW	2	60	0.72
Wuhsien	31° 12' S.	121° 2' E.	1,000	SW	2	60	0.72
Wussoek	31° 12' S.	121° 2' E.	1,000	SW	2	60	0.72

25th May, 1887, at 10 A.M.

STATION.	Latitude.	Longitude.	Altitude.	Wind.		Humidity.	Barom.
				Dir.	Force.		
Hainan	20° 57' S.	109° 52' E.	1,000	SW	1	60	0.72
Amoy	24° 51' S.	118° 21' E.	1,000	SW	1	60	0.72
Macau	22° 51' S.	113° 0' E.	1,000	SW	1	60	0.72
Shanghai	31° 12' S.	121° 2' E.	1,000	SW	1	60	0.72
Wuhsien	31° 12' S.	121° 2' E.	1,000	SW	1	60	0.72
Wussoek	31° 12' S.	121° 2' E.	1,000	SW	1	60	0.72

There is a decided fall in the barometer at all stations owing to the approach of the typhoon indicated yesterday. The temperature and the humidity are light and cloudy weather prevails.

W. DOBERCK.

Hongkong Observatory, 27th May, 1887.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

(From Messrs. PARSONS & CO's Meteorological Observations.)
May 27th.

Baometer—9 A.M. 29.860.

Decometer—1 P.M. 29.900.

Thermometer—9 A.M. 75.

Thermometer—1 P.M. 74.

Thermometer—1 P.M. (Wet bulb) 77.

Thermometer—1 P.M. (Wet bulb) 77.

Thermometer—Maximum (over night) 80.

Thermometer—Minimum (over night) 60.

Wind—0.48.

Clouds—100.

Humidity—90.

Barom. 29.860.

Decom. 29.900.

Temp. 75.

Wet bulb 77.

Humidity 90.

Wind 0.48.

Clouds 100.

Barom. 29.860.

Decom. 29.900.

Temp. 75.

Wet bulb 77.

Humidity 90.

Wind 0.48.

Clouds 100.

Barom. 29.860.

Decom. 29.900.

Temp. 75.

Wet bulb 77.

Humidity 90.

Wind 0.48.

Clouds 100.

Barom. 29.860.

Decom. 29.900.

Temp. 75.

Wet bulb 77.

Humidity 90.

Wind 0.48.

Clouds 100.

Barom. 29.860.

Decom. 29.900.

EXTRACT.

QUEER STORY.

OLD SMITH'S ROMANCE.

When it was whispered at the mess of the Hopkirk that "old Smith," as he was familiarly called, had been actually detected in a clandestine acquaintance with a certain pretty milliner girl in the town of Filton, where the regiment was quartered, the announcement was received partly with amusement and partly with incredulity.

Smith was a quiet, retiring man, perfectly harmless, very good-natured, the guide, philosopher, and friend of youngsters, although he was made a hunt by these same youngsters on account of his awkwardness and his mysterious habits, and was universally regarded as he had shown conspicuous gallantry among the zelotes of the Soudan. As he was a poor man, and remained in the regiment partly out of sheer affection for the service and partly because he was at an age when it is difficult to embark upon a new course of life, he mixed but little in the gaieties, and hospitality for which the Hopkirk was famous, spent his time principally amongst his books, and, it was generally believed, in adding to his professional income by contributing to periodical literature.

The object of "old Smith's" intentions, it was reported, was Gracie Clough—a pretty, modest, well-behaved girl, who occupied a position in the military establishment of Rucie & Bustle, and after whom the hills in the battalion were raving, although not a word had ever breathed that she had in the smallest degree outstepped the bounds of propriety, or had upon any occasion behaved herself otherwise than modestly and becomingly. Of these smitten youngsters none was more ardent in his professions of admiration, and none could congratulate himself upon having made a nearer approach to conquest, than the burly scum, devil-may-care Honourable Bob Topsham, eldest son of Lord Cray, upon whose authority the news of old Smith's attachment had been spread abroad.

At first the notion that old Smith could have succeeded in cutting out the handsome, titled young sub was scouted as ridiculous, for Smith was not exactly of the age and appearance to win the love of a girl in whose favor a score of eligible bachelors of good position and qualifications were ready to throw themselves. It was very well known, too, that he was not in a position to support a wife, and his character stood too high for any one to dare to breathe a hint that his intentions towards such a girl would be anything but strictly honorable.

Bob Topsham invited his brother sub to see for himself, and arranged that after mess on every evening they should accompany him into the town, conceal themselves, and keep watch on the premises of Rucie & Bustle at the hour when the young ladies of that famous emporium were liberated from their day's servitude. They did, and they were rewarded by seeing old Smith walking up and down the street in the true cavalier serenade style, to be presently joined by Gracie, who greeted him with cordiality, and, putting her arm in his, went off with him in the direction of the pleasant fields by which Filton is surrounded.

The young gentlemen, with the exception of Bob Topsham, regarded the affair as an excellent joke, and resolved that old Smith should hear of his discovery in diverse pleasant ways; but Bob Topsham took it very seriously, for he had been deeply in love with the girl, and up to recent date had good reason to believe that his affection was reciprocated, and that he had undivided possession of her heart.

Of course, every one knew that between Bob Topsham and Gracie Clough a very intimate understanding existed, but the young gentleman had already fallen in love half-a-dozen times, and the idea was never entertained for a moment that the prospective Lord Cray, the heir of one of the proudest noblemen in the country, seriously meditated matrimonial union with a provincial shop-girl; so that he was made the subject of innumerable witticisms sent the new rival who had suddenly appeared on the field. The result was that a coolness sprang up between him and old Smith, though they had hitherto been on the best terms with each other, and it became very evident to the onlookers, who hailed with delight anything which promised to vary the monotony of barrack life in a quiet old country town, that the affair would soon assume a serious aspect.

The climax came in due course, Bob Topsham had seen Gracie, and the following conversation had ensued between them—

"I say Gracie," said the Honourable Bob, "I wish you'd put me out of my misery and tell me plainly and honestly how matters stand between us. You've said a great many times that you care more for me than for any other fellow. I've sworn to you that I could never love another girl, and yet I've found out that not only are you in the habit of meeting Smith of ours, but that you treat him just like a favoured lover—in fact, you do with him what you've never done with me, you go out with him, and I can't help thinking that you're playing a double game."

The girl seemed very much distressed at these accusations, and at length hesitatingly replied: "Well, Bob, I'm sorry you have such a poor opinion of me. I've told you that I love you, and it is not likely that I should say such a thing and at the same time by carrying on as you term it—with another man. But I think that our attachment is altogether an unfortunate affair. I know I've done wrong in encouraging you, but I have not been able to help loving you. Don't you think that we had better not meet any more, and try to forget all that has passed between us?"

The young officer stared in amazement, and exclaimed: "Why, Gracie, you don't mean to say that you're going to throw me over like this?"

"No, Bob, I don't want to do anything of the sort," replied the girl; "but I am anxious to act for your good—for the good of both of us—really, truly, and honestly I do. Please don't accuse me of any other motive. Just think over our position. On one side there is you—her to a great name, your father a proud, rich man. On the other side here am I—a milliner's shop-girl. What would your father say—what would the world say, if you were to make me your wife?"

"What do I care about what the governor or the world would say?" exclaimed her lover. "I am of age. My father has no influence over me, except to cut me out of his will. You're a lady, Gracie, I know that, although you are in a shop, and there's no shame in that. By Jove! you're only to turn up the Directory to see how the swells are going in for commerce, and even for trade. In God's sake, then, Gracie, don't send me away. Until I know you I won't be up to much good, although I don't mean that I was a blackguard. But since I've known you I've changed, and I would make you just as good a husband as many of these fellows who come with written characters in their pockets."

"Yes, Bob, I believe all that," answered the girl. "But I shouldn't be happy, even as your wife, if I was separated from your people and painted out as a scoundrel who had put you in a position out of which you could not get yourself, and say you left alone by all your relations and friends because you had married a girl out of a bonnet shop."

"We'd keep out of their way, Gracie," said the young man. "Go and live quietly somewhere."

"But you can't get out of the way of your brother officers," said the girl.

"Never mind about them," said Bob. "But to return to Smith. What about him? When I know that you meet him, and go with him, what am I to infer?"

Gracie hesitated for a moment, and then looking him full in the face, said: "Bob, if I tell you that you are the only man I love in the world, you should be satisfied. But I implore you to think over what I have said. Tom—mean Mr. Smith—is an old and dear friend of mine, and—"

"There!" interposed the young man, "you've called him by his Christian name. Good heavens, Gracie! what does it all mean?"

The girl did not answer, and the Honourable Bob, after a few more entreaties and exhortations, took himself off in a rage, vowing that he would have it out with his brother officer before he was many hours older.

On his way to barracks he met Smith, and to his surprise, the latter opened fire at once by saying: "I say, Topsham, I wish you'd give me ten minutes' talk in my quarters."

"I've come on purpose to ask the same thing of you," replied Bob, earnestly. "But you had better come into mine, as there's less chance of being overheard."

So they turned into Bob's quarters, and each began supplied with a cigar, Smith began: "One thing, Topsham, before I say a word, I must ask you to keep your temper."

"Well, Smith," replied Bob, "it will. I am afraid, under the circumstances, he will. But I'll do my best. Now then to the point!"

"No, you must promise."

"All right, then, I promise."

"I'm an older man than you are, and I'm entitled to give you advice."

"Depends upon the subject."

"Well, you're in love with Gracie Clough, aren't you?"

"Yes, I am. But what of that? What has it to do with you? Who told you?"

"I found it out by accident—only a day or two ago. Now do you think that you are doing your duty both to her and to yourself by persisting in an attachment of which nothing can come?"

"I must answer with another question," replied Bob. "Is it your business, or any other fellow's, to teach me my duty in a case like this?"

"Yes, it is my duty to prevent happenings and misery if I can, and that's why I've asked you to give me ten minutes' talk. Gracie Clough is a milliner girl. You're a nobleman's eldest son."

"The very words Gracie used to me, by Jove!" said Bob to himself, feeling an impulse to lose his temper and say something nasty, but remembering his promise in time and merely remarked:—

"Well, what of that?"

"I know your father, Lord Cray, well," continued Smith.

"The devil do you! That's more than I can say," replied the young man.

"And," said Smith, "he's not the sort of man to regard such a union—and, of course, you are aiming at nothing but a union—with favour."

"No; he'd cut up infernally rough about it, and that's why I want it kept dark," said Bob Topsham.

"And he'd be quite right," remarked Smith.

"I don't think so," said the younger officer. "But look here, Smith. The fact is you're gone on the girl yourself, and you think I'll go rid of me as a rival by lecturing me upon what I ought and oughtn't do. Why don't you say so at once, without so much beating about the bush?"

"What makes you think that I'm gone upon her?" asked Smith.

"Why, I've seen you meet her at night, and go out for a walk with her, and so have the others follow," replied Bob.

Smith started. This was evidently news to him. Bob Topsham observed the effect of his speech, and chuckled inwardly. Then he said:—

"Gracie has told me that she loves me."

"I'm sorry to hear it," replied Smith.

"Of course you are," said Bob. "Just as sorry as I am to know that she meets you and walks out with you. It would make many a fellow think that she's not better than she ought to be, but I can't."

"No, no," said Smith, with energy.

"Don't you know that she's the best of girl?"

There was a pause. Smith broke it.

"Are you going to follow my advice, Topsham?"

"No. Certainly not. I love the girl. She loves me. If I can't marry her I shall do no good. It's the knowing and loving her that has kept me straight."

So old Smith took his departure.

Of course, it was very soon all over the barracks that the rivals had been closest together, and general interest in the affair was intensified. This reached a climax when, upon the evening after the interview above recorded, Bob Topsham rushed into the mess-room, his face flushed, his eyes sparkling with anger, and roared out:—

"Where's Smith? Where is he? By—"

"Old Smith?" drawled a languid junior.

"He applied for a week's leave this afternoon, and went off by the first train to town."

"Has he though? The double-faced cad!"

Every one looked up at this unusual outburst of anger, and there was a chorus of "What?"

"Because he's gone off with Gracie Clough! But I'll be even with him, or my name's not Bob Topsham!"

Up the steps of Lord Cray's residence in Bryanston-square Smith went a day or two after the events above recorded. The words "Hoplite Regiment" on his card procured him instant admission to the presence of a policeman who was not visible to one person out of half-a-dozen who called, and he found himself with a tall, dark man, who was suitably enthroned in a lofty dark study.

"Ha, Mr. Smith," said Lord Cray, rising.

"Delighted to see you, sir; and yet—when I'm always in rather a tremble when any one from the regiment calls, on account of that sergeant of a son of mine."

"It is with reference to him that I have come," said Smith.

"Then before you begin, please tell me if I am to prepare myself for bad news?" said Lord Cray.

"Well, my lord, it needn't be bad," replied Smith. "That is to say, it depends upon the way you look at it."

"It won't depend upon me, does it? What is it?" asked his lordship.

"He's in love with a girl," said old Smith.

"That's a regular epidemic with him, Mr. Smith," said Lord Cray. "But if she's a lady and all right, I don't care. Nothing will stand him until he marries, and if, as I said, she's—ahem, of a suitable position—of course, Mr. Smith, we must be a little exclusive—why, it's the very best thing he can do."

"Well, my lord, there's difficulty," said old Smith. "She's a lady by birth and education, but from pressure of family circumstances she has been obliged to get her living in a milliner's shop."

"Milliner's shop," exclaimed Lord Cray.

"That is indeed a difficulty. The best of birth and education hardly balances the shop, does it? Confound him! And the matter's gone so far that you've come to see me about it. Of course, you're a great friend of his. I believe they call you Old Smith in the regiment, don't they?"

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